



93RD DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 00014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514  
PHONE: (517) 373-1778  
FAX: (517) 373-5780  
E-MAIL: paulopsommer@house.mi.gov

## MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**PAUL E. OPSOMMER**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

October 16, 2007

Honorable Members of the Tourism, Outdoor Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee  
Honorable Joel Sheltrown, Majority Chair  
Honorable Kate Ebli, Majority Vice Chair  
Honorable Tom Casperson, Minority Vice Chair

Written testimony regarding HB 4490

Dear Colleagues:

Michigan is a state with many outdoors and firearm enthusiasts, who enjoy hunting, outdoor target practice, and participating in other shooting sports. While purchasing rifles and shotguns is a fairly straightforward practice in Michigan, the process for purchasing handguns is based primarily on Act 372 from 1927, which has been amended several times over the years and has become a heavily bureaucratic process full of redundancy. As a result, it has become a time consuming process that needs to be reexamined. Firearm purchasers have to take multiple days off of work in order to buy a gun, and are often forced to drive long distances during limited hours. It is becoming increasingly evident that the process can be streamlined in a manner that saves resources for both consumers and law enforcement while still ensuring that firearms continue to be purchased by only age appropriate, law abiding citizens.

I am here today to give testimony that this can be accomplished through HB 4490 and associated bills. In looking at the pistol purchase process in Michigan, we are one of only seventeen states that rely on a bureaucratic licensing scheme in order to buy a handgun. This process is lengthy and time consuming and can be divided up into three categories (illustrated in Chart 1):

- 1) Pre-purchase processes
- 2) The point of purchase
- 3) Post purchase processes

HB 4490 focuses on post-purchase processes. As a result, it does not change anything in the gun law in regards to who can purchase a firearm. It also does not change anything in regards to the number of background checks that occur in the firearm purchase process, but instead focuses primarily on eliminating the redundancy of consumers having to go to law enforcement in order to obtain a so called "safety inspection" certificate, which adds nothing of value to the many other forms that are already created as part of the process.

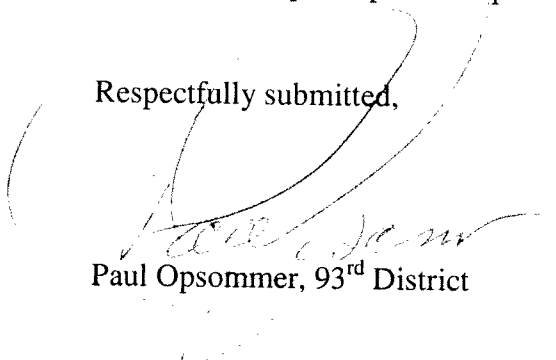
*"A cursory inspection has been made of the pistol presented. A check for operational or mechanical defects has not been made of this pistol."*

It is no wonder then that most gun buyers view "safety inspections" as a waste of time and money that accomplishes little. Since they have already potentially had to make a trip to law enforcement to get a purchase license, it represents just another step that forces them to take additional time off work, drive long distances, or to be met with restrictive hours in which the "inspections" may be offered.

Eliminating safety inspections and "safety certificates" (RI-11) does not eliminate any other forms used in the purchase process, such as the "pistol sales record" (RI-60) or the "application & license to purchase a pistol" (RI-10). Like the redundant safety certificate, these forms also include space for information on the pistols make, model, caliber, shot count and serial number. Eliminating the safety certificates will however obviate the need for many purchasers to have to return back to law enforcement after they have purchased the pistol, and along with changes to form RI-10 that would indicate who must mail the form to the State Police, will continue to ensure that law enforcement continues to have full access to these records as well. Only the burdensome post-purchase process will be affected.

I ask for your support of HB 4490 to help relieve the administrative burden and duplicative processes associated with safety inspections and the pistol purchase process.

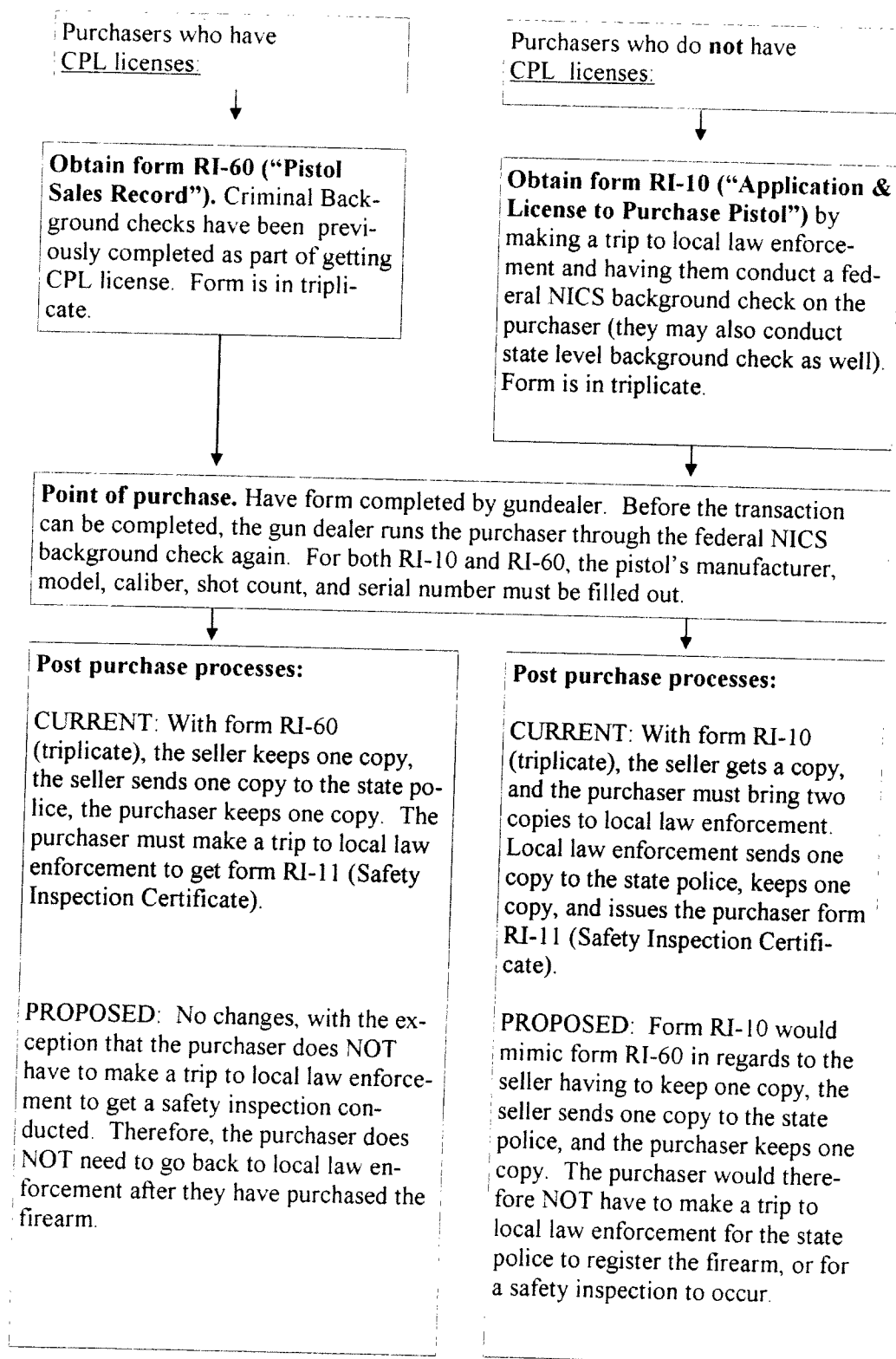
Respectfully submitted,



Paul Opsommer, 93<sup>rd</sup> District

# CHART ONE

## State of Michigan Pistol Purchase Process



RI-60 (3/01)

**Pistol Sales Record**

(Type or print in ink)

Michigan State Police

Make		Serial Number	
Caliber	Shot	Type	Model

**Purchaser**

Name: Last		First	Middle
Address		City	
CCW No.		Date of birth	

Purchaser's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: one copy to seller; one copy to purchaser. Seller sends original within 10 days of purchase to

Firearm Records Unit, Michigan State Police, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, MI 48913

Pistol must be presented by the purchaser to the local police authority for a safety inspection.

An individual who makes a material false statement on this form is guilty of a felony.

Authority: 2006 PA 381. Completion: Mandatory for sale to proceed without a License to Purchase.

RI-60 (3/01)

**Pistol Sales Record**

(Type or print in ink)

Michigan State Police

Make		Serial Number	
Caliber	Shot	Type	Model

**Purchaser**

Name: Last		First	Middle
Address		City	
CCW No.		Date of birth	

Purchaser's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: one copy to seller; one copy to purchaser. Seller sends original within 10 days of purchase to

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RI-60 (3/01)

**Pistol Sales Record**

(Type or print in ink)

Michigan State Police

Make		Serial Number	
Caliber	Shot	Type	Model

**Purchaser**

Name: Last		First	Middle
Address		City	
CCW No.		Date of birth	

Purchaser's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: one copy to seller; one copy to purchaser. Seller sends original within 10 days of purchase to

Firearm Records Unit, Michigan State Police, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, MI 48913

Pistol must be presented by the purchaser to the local police authority for a safety inspection.

An individual who makes a material false statement on this form is guilty of a felony.

Authority: 2006 PA 381. Completion: Mandatory for sale to proceed without a License to Purchase.

RI-10 (11/99)

Michigan State Police

TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

**APPLICATION AND LICENSE TO PURCHASE A PISTOL**

Name (Last, First, Middle)		Issue Date: 08/08/2003	Void After (Date): 08/18/2003
Signature of Chief or Sheriff: <i>Wayne Kanga</i>		Department CLINTON CO. SHERIFF	
Signature of Seller:		Manufacturer or Importer of Pistol:	
Address of Seller:		Cal:	Shot: Serial No.:
City:	State:	Model:	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-auto. <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Sale:	Signature of Purchaser:		Barrel Length:

**PISTOLS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR SAFETY INSPECTION WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER PURCHASE**  
 Unused forms must be returned to the issuing agency. 03220080875J  
**ISSUING AGENCY COPY**

RI-10 (11/99)

Michigan State Police

TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

**APPLICATION AND LICENSE TO PURCHASE A PISTOL**

03220080875J

Name (Last, First, Middle)		Issue Date: 08/08/2003	Void After (Date): 08/18/2003
Signature of Chief or Sheriff: <i>Wayne Kanga</i>		Department CLINTON CO. SHERIFF	
Signature of Seller:		Manufacturer or Importer of Pistol:	
Address of Seller:		Cal:	Shot: Serial No.:
City:	State:	Model:	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-auto. <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Sale:	Signature of Purchaser:		Barrel Length:

Issuing Agency, send this copy to: MICHIGAN STATE POLICE  
 CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER  
 7150 HARRIS DRIVE, LANSING, MI 48913

RI-10 (11/99)

Michigan State Police

TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

**APPLICATION AND LICENSE TO PURCHASE A PISTOL**

Name (Last, First, Middle)		Issue Date: 08/08/2003	Void After (Date): 08/18/2003
Signature of Chief or Sheriff: <i>Wayne Kanga</i>		Department CLINTON CO. SHERIFF	
Signature of Seller:		Manufacturer or Importer of Pistol:	
Address of Seller:		Cal:	Shot: Serial No.:
City:	State:	Model:	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-auto. <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Sale:	Signature of Purchaser:		Barrel Length:

**SELLER COPY**

MS-17 (6-85)

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

**SAFETY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (Type or Print in Ink)**

Name _____	
Street _____	
City <u>Chelsea</u>	Zip <u>48118</u>
Date of Birth <u>6-10-69</u>	Race <u>W</u> Sex <u>M</u>
Height <u>5'7"</u>	Hair <u>Bro</u> Eyes <u>Bro</u>
Make of Pistol <u>Sig Sauer</u>	
Type <u>Semi-Auto</u>	Cal. <u>45</u>
Model <u>P220</u>	Serial No. _____
Misc. _____	Shot <u>7</u>
Inspected by Chief or Sheriff <u>Det. M. Hargis</u>	
City/County/Twp. <u>Chelsea</u>	Date <u>11-1-96</u>

State law prohibits the furnishing, leasing, giving or selling of this pistol to another unless that person (including gun dealers) first obtains a license to purchase a pistol. Violation of this law is a criminal offense.

A cursory inspection has been made of this pistol presented. A check for operational or mechanical defects has not been made of this pistol.

AUTHORITY: MCL 28.429	This information is confidential. Disclosure of confidential information is prohibited by the Federal Privacy Act.
COMPLIANCE: Required	
PENALTY: Maximum forfeiture of pistol	

This is NOT a permit to carry a concealed weapon